



# MIT urges court to consider impact of executive order on scholars & research

*Area colleges argue that travel ban contradicts educational missions*

By Anshula Gandhi  
NEWS EDITOR

Following the executive order barring entry to the U.S. from several countries, MIT filed an *amicus curiae* brief to provide the court with perspective on how the ban affects institutions of higher learning.

Though a Seattle circuit court ruled that the ban could not be enforced, the debate surrounding the legality of the executive order is ongoing. MIT's *amicus* brief may be used to provide federal courts with perspective on the impact of the order.

The brief intentionally did not present any legal arguments. "We

filed a friend of the court brief," Mark DiVincenzo, chief legal officer for MIT, said in an interview with *The Tech*. "We didn't make legal arguments — whether the order was constitutional or discriminatory. That's up to the parties in the lawsuit. What we wanted to do was make sure the judge, in making those legal decisions, understood the impact the decisions may be both long term and short term on universities."

Asked about MIT's goal in filing the brief, DiVincenzo emphasized that the brief wasn't meant to simply argue against the execu-

**Amicus, Page 3**



**The 21st annual European Career Fair** hosted Universities and Companies from all over Europe last Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017.

DAMIAN BARABONKOV—THE TECH

# CRISPR patent ruling has little effect in MIT laboratory setting

*Faculty voices support for Zhang and patents in biotech after court decides highly-contested case in Broad's favor*

By Drew Bent and Vivian  
Zhong  
STAFF REPORTERS

Researchers at MIT maintained that the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board's Feb. 15 decision, which affirmed the Broad Institute's patent claims on using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to edit eukaryotic genomes, had little impact on future laboratory research.

The PTAB decision agreed with the Broad's claim do not interfere with a broader patent filed by the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Vienna.

MIT professor Feng Zhang, the young CRISPR leader at the Broad responsible for the patents, said he did not believe "the patent questions have slowed research at all." In an email to *The Tech*, he wrote he was "glad that it has not become a distraction," which he attributes in part to the commitment of scientists at various institutions wanting to further the field.

"It's been a big topic for the media, but I don't think the academic community — at least my peers — are too focused on the details of this patent, since it doesn't prevent us from using CRISPR as a tool," Daniel Anderson, a professor of applied biology at MIT, said in a phone interview with *The Tech*. Anderson's lab was heavily involved with devel-

oping the mechanism for delivery of CRISPR components to target cells.

For Zhang and other MIT professors, patents are a crucial part of the research and development process. "I believe that academic and other non-profit institutions have a responsibility to make licensing decisions that maximize patient benefit," Zhang said. He noted that his lab shares CRISPR tools through the non-profit Addgene for research.

Phillip Sharp, an institute professor at the Koch Institute and a laureate of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, highlighted the role of patents in the development of pharmaceuticals: patents grant a "transient monopoly," he said, which helps justify the billions of dollars invested in biomedical research.

Anderson agreed, adding that not enough attention has been paid to the power of patents to enable technology.

For Robert Langer, an institute professor renowned for his work in drug delivery and one of the most cited bioengineering professors in history, patents do not typically present an issue. Sorting out intellectual property rights, he wrote in an email to *The Tech*, is a straightforward task even when other institutions are involved, and is handled efficiently and routinely by the MIT

Technology Licensing Office.

The key financial stakeholders in PTAB's decision, aside from the institutions themselves, are the companies that have licensed CRISPR-Cas9 technology from the Broad or Berkeley, who stand to gain or lose millions of dollars.

Editas Medicine, which licensed the Broad's patent, saw its stocks jump nearly 30 percent after the decision. Meanwhile, shares of CRISPR Therapeutics, which licensed patents from Berkeley professor Jennifer Doudna and University of Vienna professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, both of who declined to comment for this story, fell nearly 10 percent. Anderson co-founded CRISPR Therapeutics with Charpentier.

The pending patent by Berkeley and the University of Vienna makes a claim to the use of CRISPR-Cas9 in all cell types. At the time the patent was filed, however, Doudna and Charpentier had only used CRISPR-Cas9 to cut genomes in test tubes. It remains unclear whether these broader patent claims will be granted, and what that would imply for the Broad's patents.

Berkeley said in a statement that they were pleased that their patent applications can continue with the ending of the PTAB case.

**CRISPR, Page 3**

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**MakeMIT hosted over 250 hackers** last Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, in the Student Center for a day-long hackathon event.

## IN SHORT

**The MIT Energy Career Fair** is today from 7 to 9 p.m. in Lobdell on the second floor of the student center.

**Add date** is next Friday, March 10. This is the last day to add classes, change classes to sophomore exploratory or junior/senior P/D/F, switch from listener to credit, and drop half-term subjects.

**Applications for student groups to request UA Finboard funding** for the spring will open March 8 at 5 p.m., and the deadline is March 22 at 11:59 p.m.

## FERMAT'S LAST JOKE

We had a truly marvelous joke which this inside box is too narrow to contain.



## FINISH LINE

MIT sports finishes strong. **SPORTS, p. 8**



## FINAL JEOPARDY

Hear from the champion and memelord herself. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 4**

## DOUBLE TAKE

Two art galleries explore perception. **ARTS, p. 5**

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## UCB patent still pending, current claims likely too broad

CRISPR, from Page 1

"The Doudna/Charpentier patent application will be returned to the patent examiner, who previously determined that their patent application is allowable," they wrote in the statement.

At the same time, Berkeley kept open the possibility of appealing the PTAB's decision. The status of the patents also remains uncertain abroad, where Europe is facing similar questions.

The decision in the PTAB case, however, has left some legal scholars doubting the strength of UC Berkeley and the University of Vienna's patent claims.

Jacob Sherkow, a professor at New York Law School who focuses on patent law in the biosciences, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the Patent and Trademark Office "will have the opportunity to require [Berkeley] to narrow their current patent claims in light of the decision last week."

Sherkow believes that even if the Berkeley patent is awarded, it would be weak and hard to enforce. "Those claims will almost certainly suffer from problems of lack of written description or lack of enablement as detailed by the PTAB's decision," Sherkow said.

There remains the possibility, even if unlikely, that both parties' patents are found to be valid. In this case, "overlap would possibly hurt companies who have already bet



ANSELMO CASSIANO—THE TECH

**The Broad Institute**, home of the Zhang lab.

on one horse in this horse race, who may then need to obtain a license from the other institution," Sherkow said. He believes that academic research is unlikely to be affected, however.

Langer, Sharp, and Anderson all professed that they did not have in-depth understanding of the specifics of the patent dispute and PTAB's decision. Langer asserted that it would take many weeks to properly examine the patent claims and make an informed evaluation of the patent decision, and Anderson was similarly reluctant to "make a statement about the patent decision basis."

Sharp, on the other hand, was comfortable agreeing with PTAB's appraisal that Zhang's accomplish-

ment was not obvious and could not have been achieved by someone with ordinary skill in the subject. "It's a major innovation," he said. "Many things happen in a test tube, and when you go to translate that to a cell, frequently there's interference."

Sharp called Zhang a "wonderful guy, brilliant scientist" of whom he was "justifiably proud." He later applied similar laudatory terms to Doudna.

Langer similarly praised Zhang for his work with CRISPR. Referencing the Canada Gairdner International Award that Zhang received in 2016, Langer said, "I have [not] done a detailed analysis on credit, but he would not have awards like that without doing very important work."

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# MIT's spiciest memelord

Lilly Chin on her Jeopardy! victory



COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS, INC.

**Lilly Chin '17 and Alex Trebeck on Jeopardy! College Championship.**

*Editor's note: this article was transcribed and arranged by the editor from interviews with Lilly Chin '17, winner of 2017's Jeopardy! College Championship.*

Before I got on Jeopardy, I'd catch it on TV, but it wasn't really a big part of my life. I did quiz bowl in high school, and way back in the day I tried out for teen tournament, but I don't really remember that at all. This really only started with my GRT when I lived in Random, Phil Arevalo. He was on Jeopardy, so when the qualifying test came out, he was like, "Everyone should take the test, it's online, it's whatever," so I was like, "Okay, I'll do it."

They have the test in October, and it's only given at one time so that people can't cheat by time zones. It was actually in the middle of class, so I was trying not to get caught by my teacher while also answering the questions very quickly, but I guess it worked out. I got invited to in-person auditions. I went to New York City in November. I got the call that I was on the show in December, and then January, first week of IAP, I was filming.

On TV, Jeopardy shows the question, and that fills the entire screen, and then it jumps to the three contestants, and then you see who buzzes in, and then it's another shot of just the contestant, and then maybe a shot to Trebeck, and that just repeats. You never get a sense of how big the space is. You don't think about the space. I think that was the biggest surprise — it was a place I could walk around in and experience.

Filming was really intense. Everyone's hands were shaking. If you watch the video, you don't know. You don't realize how intense it is until you're onstage and see it as a set, and there's lights and film and everything. Everyone on the Jeopardy staff is really extroverted, and so you need to be

really extroverted, too. It's a lot. I was very tired by the end of the first day of filming. I was first call, and even just playing that one game — it was only 30 minutes — was very stressful.

I think the thing I liked most about being on Jeopardy, though, was seeing what a professional film crew does. I've done filming in the past — I used to be part of my high school's film crew for football — so I know everything about how it works, about switching the cuts and the different cameramen. To go to Hollywood, see the soundstages, and see how professional the crew was, and how everyone needs to be in the right place, and how well-oiled the machine was, it felt very weird that I was part of this grand Hollywood film tradition for a TV show.

It also didn't really hit me that I was going to be on TV until the first viewing party. I watched the episode on my giant TV, and seeing the swooping camera angles and me — I was just like, "What?" Watching it again and seeing the answers I remembered and the answers I didn't, I was just yelling at the screen like, "Why'd you miss that, why'd you buzz in on that, you didn't know the answer!"

I would've been happy just making the semifinals and being on TV for two days. I was not expecting to win the entire thing. It's funny because I don't remember much of the tournament. I remember what happens, but while playing, it's just so intense. I do trap shooting, and the coach always tells us, "Take one shot at a time. Don't think about your overall score." It was very much like that. I was just thinking, "Get this question, get this question right."

For all of double Jeopardy, I didn't realize I had a lead. I was pretty worried about Gary the naval guy. He was really aggressive

on the buzzer, especially in the first game, so in the five minutes between the two games, I was like, "Okay, I need to psych myself up, I need to do well and beat him on the buzzer," and I somehow found the zone during Double Jeopardy. I didn't realize I was doing so well until I looked up at the end, and then I did all the math, and I was like, "Oh, this is a lockout game!" I tried to come up with the Final Jeopardy answer, but at that point I was just so excited that I had won the whole thing. I had already decided I was going to answer "dank memes" or "spicy memes." There's always a chance, if you have a lock-out game, to put down some funny answer, so I just went with the original plan.

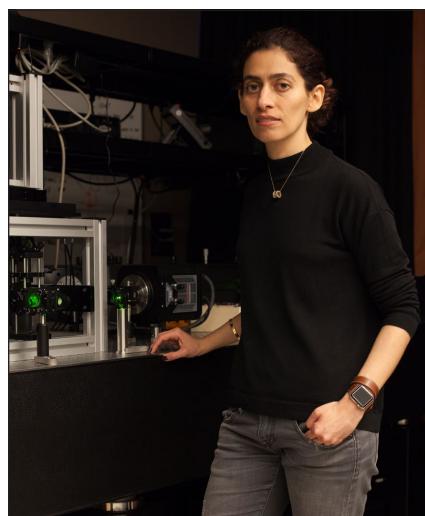
I didn't realize how big of a deal being on the show was until I did it. A lot of people have been reaching out with stories. There was one random person who said, "I have two 14-year-old daughters. They want to do chemical engineering, and they're really inspired to see that you can do well in academics but also have fun." Another person told me how they were in a hospital for a family emergency, and they were watching Jeopardy. When my memelord answer came up, they thought it was really funny. It is really weird being a public figure. I'm a part of people's lives in a way I never expected. I feel really strange to be able to make a difference in people's lives I think.

It's also interesting because you go onto social media and you see random people from all over the country either tweeting, "Yeah, go Lilly!" or "I hate Lilly! Why does she roll up her sleeves?" It was very obvious to me, having spent time a lot on the internet, that if you're in any place of public position, people are going to hate on you. It was really fun to see that in real life.

I was very publically representing MIT. I've had alums from the '70s email me. President Reif sent me an email. I do student government, so I work with the chancellor and the dean of student life, and they sent nice notes. I appreciated that. My Facebook was blowing up. Every time I was logging in I would have a hundred notifications. I already saw my face on the TV screen in the Infinite. People were coming up to me and saying, "I'm from MIT, I'm so excited to see you on Jeopardy!" I find it crazy that there's so much school spirit.

I'm really excited for [Jeopardy's] Tournament of Champions. Meanwhile, someone made a "Japanese game show" for East Campus bad ideas weekend, and I helped. Japanese game shows have all these environmental hazards. The one that EC made was a wall with a bunch of two by fours sticking out. You stood on the two by fours, and you had to answer trivia questions while the two by fours were being taken out from under your feet. I did that, and my friends saw me helping out, pulling the two by fours out, and they were like, "Do you have a game show problem? You're back to this!" Slightly different, but it was pretty funny.

*Lilly Chin is a member of the class of 2017.*



## TECH TRANSFERS

### Nikta Fakhri

Immigrant members of the MIT community

I grew up in Tehran, Iran. After completing my undergraduate studies at Sharif University of Technology, I came to Rice University as a graduate student. Afterwards, I moved to Göttingen, Germany as a Human Frontier Science Program postdoctoral fellow. I joined the MIT Department of Physics in January 2015. My lab is interested in developing tools for discovering how spatiotemporal patterns arise in active biological materials.

*Nikta Fakhri is an Assistant Professor of Physics.*

*Editor's note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.*



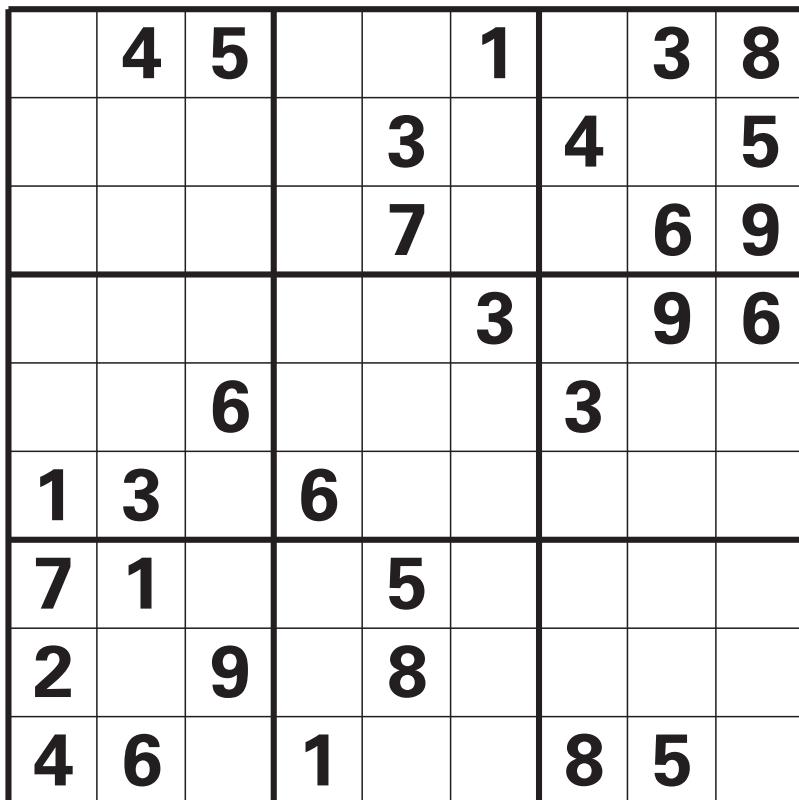
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# La La Land...?

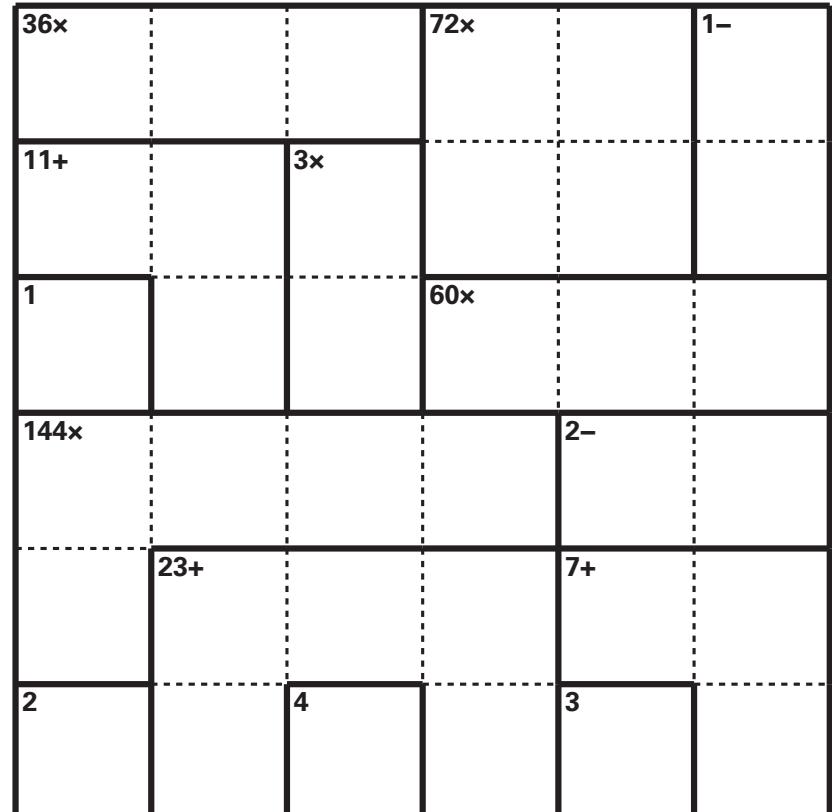
## Solution, page 8



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Moonlight...!

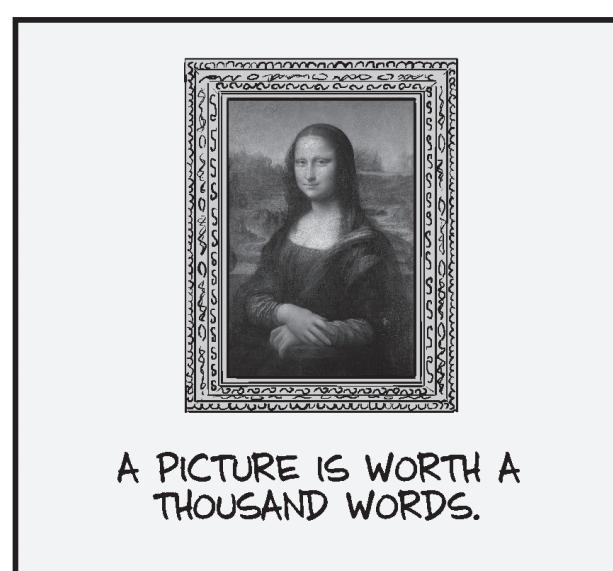
## Solution, page 8



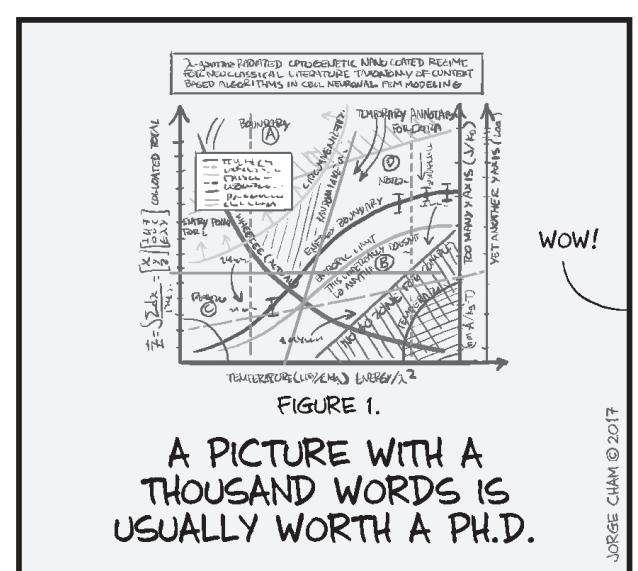
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



by Jorge Cham



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THOUSAND WORDS.



A PICTURE WITH A  
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# Carving Board

by Carolyn Stewart

Solution, page 8

## ACROSS

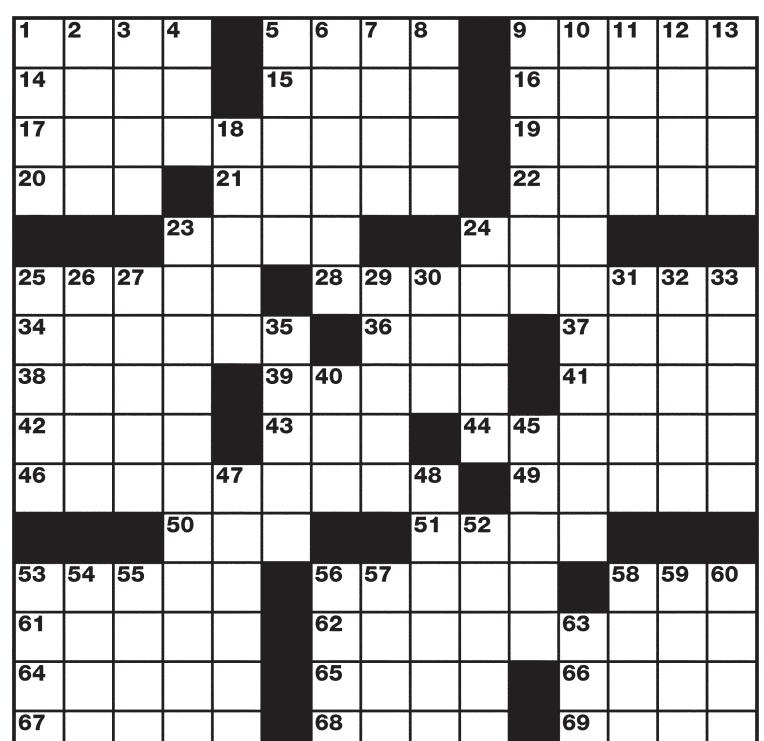
1 Prescribed amount  
5 Horse's hair  
9 Capital of Ghana  
14 Render a verdict  
15 Aroma  
16 Obstruct, as a river  
17 Reykjavik resident  
19 Make up (for)  
20 Prof's deg., often  
21 Underground water sources  
22 Well-mannered guys  
23 Top of the head  
24 Title for a knight  
25 Italian resort isle  
28 Daytime TV drama  
34 Parcels out  
36 Finance deg.  
37 Mosque leader  
38 Korean cars  
39 Notions  
41 Place to bowl  
42 "¿Cómo \_\_\_\_ usted?"  
43 Remind too much  
44 Speak ill of  
46 Crustacean with edible

- claws
- 49 Bundled, as hay
- 50 Change the color of
- 51 PC rival of Dell
- 53 Sufficient room
- 56 Nursery rhyme dieter
- 58 Oxygen or neon
- 61 Yuletide tune
- 62 Peanuts bird
- 64 Drop \_\_ to (write to)
- 65 Oscar actress Hathaway
- 66 Dress of India
- 67 Beauty and the \_\_
- 68 Final or midterm
- 69 Said "Not guilty," perhaps

**DOWN**

- 1 Leaky faucet sound
- 2 "That smarts!"
- 3 Winter coaster
- 4 Electrified fish
- 5 Impressionist painter Claude
- 6 Confuses
- 7 Yuletide tune
- 8 Makes a blunder
- 9 Slow tempo
- 10 Butterfly-to-be

- 11 "We gotta go!"
- 12 Smallest of a litter
- 13 Chimps and gorillas
- 18 Stand by for
- 23 Details to be  
debated
- 24 Muscle twitch
- 25 Bakery array
- 26 Celebrity roster
- 27 Greek philosopher
- 29 End of the Greek  
alphabet
- 30 Group for D.A.'s
- 31 Smartphone  
message
- 32 Mountain chain
- 33 Modify, as  
legislation
- 35 From then until now
- 40 Women's patriotic  
org.
- 45 Assists in  
wrongdoing
- 47 Hole for a shoelace
- 48 British nobles
- 52 West Point student
- 53 Sign of healing



54 Drained of color	58 Project's objective
55 Operatic solo	59 Farmland measure
56 Sharp blow	60 Winter driving mishap

News should be \_\_\_\_\_.



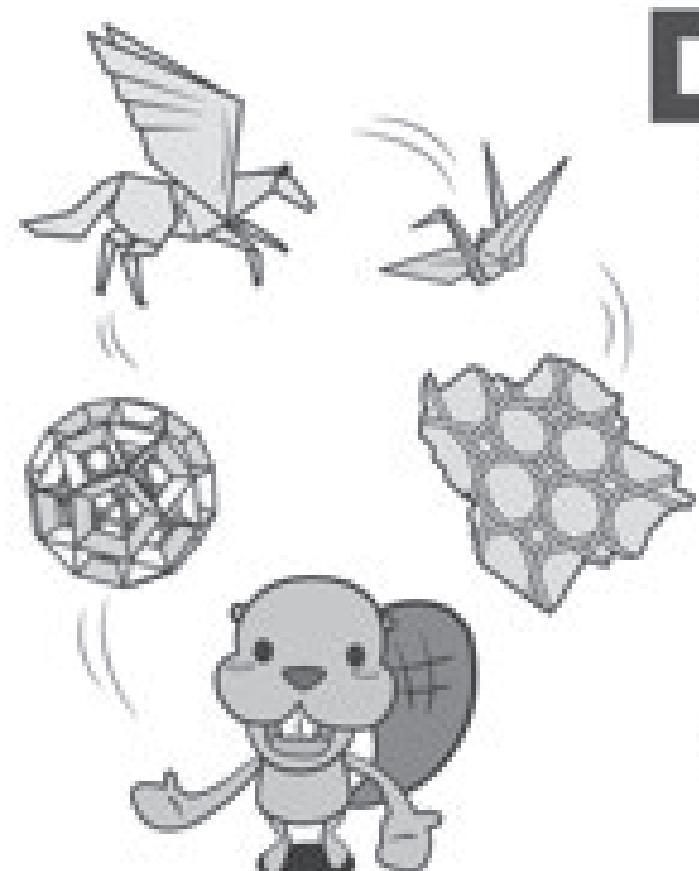


EVENT

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**March 3, 2-3:30pm**  
Hayden Library, 14S-100

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### Solution to La La Land

from page 6

9	4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8
6	7	1	9	3	8	4	2	5
3	8	2	5	7	4	1	6	9
8	2	4	7	1	3	5	9	6
5	9	6	8	4	2	3	7	1
1	3	7	6	9	5	2	8	4
7	1	8	3	5	6	9	4	2
2	5	9	4	8	7	6	1	3
4	6	3	1	2	9	8	5	7

### Solution to Moonlight

from page 6

6	3	2	4	1	5
5	2	1	3	6	4
1	4	3	5	2	6
4	1	6	2	5	3
3	6	5	1	4	2
2	5	4	6	3	1

### Solution to Carving Board

from page 6

DOSE	MANE	ACCRA
RULE	ODOR	DAMUP
ICELANDER	ATONE	
PHD	WELLS	GENTS
	PATE	SIR
CAPRI	SOAPERA	
ALLOTS	MBA	IMAM
KIAS	IDEAS	LANE
ESTA	NAG	MALIGN
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BEAST	TEST	PLED

# Have you completed the 2017 Student Quality of Life Survey? If not, please do today!

Every four years, undergraduates and grad students share thoughts about their MIT experience through this wide-ranging survey. Make your voice heard and shape the trajectory of student life at MIT. **And win prizes!** Complete the survey and you will be entered into a drawing for two \$500 gift cards (Amazon or AMEX)

and 100 TechCash cards each worth \$100. Take a 30-minutes break and complete the survey now! Click the code or go to [bit.ly/mitsql2017](http://bit.ly/mitsql2017).



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### SPORTS BLITZ

**Men's Basketball** (21-6) won the NEWMAC championship this week defeating Babson 67-62 and will play Eastern Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Friday.

**Women's Basketball** (20-6) lost a close battle to Smith College in the NEWMAC quarterfinal 70-77 despite a great comeback. Kara Holinski '19 was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Third Team.

**Men's Tennis** (3-0) defeated Bentley 8-0 this past Wednesday. Tyler Barr '19 was named Singles Player of the Week and the duo Sean Ko '19 and Victor Cheng '20 were named Doubles Team of the Week.

**Men's Volleyball** (16-3) defeated Lasell College 3-2 on Thursday. Travish Smith '18 lead MIT with 15 kills.

**Women's Sailing** placed 11th of 18 in this past weekend in the College of the Charlestown Women's Regatta.

**Track and Field** competed in the NEICAAA Championship over the weekend. The women's team claimed 5th among 34 teams and the men's team claimed 20th among 31.